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# 1941 CATALOG

of Miller's Popular

# Dahlias and Cultural Guide

NEW CHOICE VARIETIES

... of recent introductions...

NEW LOW PRICES!

FAMOUS FOR QUALITY ROOTS SURE TO GROW, BLOOM AND PLEASE N. A. MILLER 6720 N. ALBINA AVENUE c/o White's Flower Shop PORTLAND, OREGON Postmaster: If not delivered, return postage guaranteed.

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W. Plains antual Field

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#### TO MY DAHLIA FRIENDS

With the advent of another planting season, it gives me pleasure to send you my 1941 Catalog and again offer you many popular Dahlias at new low prepaid prices.

I regret that I am a little late again this year in sending out my catalog, but I hope I am not too late to receive your order.

#### GREATLY REDUCED PRICES

Due to unusually fine growing weather last fall. I had the biggest increase in Dahlia roots that I have had in several years. Consequently, I have a very big supply of choice quality roots to offer this spring—and, I want to share my good fortune with my customers by reducing the prices on many fine varieties to such a low cost that almost every one can afford a garden full of beautiful Dahlias.

#### AWARD OF MERIT DAHLIAS

The Dahlias listed in this catalog are all popular varieties and are worthy of a place in everybody's garden. Most of them have been created and introduced in the last few years. The largest percentage or nearly all of them have prize-winning records, either on the American Roll of Honor, or has received special awards of merit or certificates by the leading foreign trial gardens or Dahlia Shows.

#### REASON FOR THE DIFFERENCE IN PRICES

Among all the varieties listed in this catalog, there are quite a number of excellent kinds which I have listed very cheap because I have large stocks of these varieties and can afford to offer them at lower prices and some kinds I have only limited stocks, which I have priced as low as I can afford to sell them and make a fair margin of profit.

#### MY BUSINESS POLICY

I always aim to send out good Dahlia roots, regardless of the price that I sell them at.

When I receive your order you can expect good packing and your Dahlia roots to arrive in good growing condition — Sure To Grow, Bloom, and Please!

Quality and true to name guaranteed - - - If any should prove otherwise, on proper proof I will either replace the stock or refund the purchase price.

Delivery any time after April 1st to June 10th.

I want to thank my many customers for your valued favors, and to those who receive my catalog for the first time I cordially invite you to send me a trial order. I am sure you will also be well pleased with the Dahlias I send you.

Yours very truly,

N. A. MILLER

# To the Trade 50% Discount

FOR 5 OR MORE OF A KIND.

 $33\frac{1}{3}\%$  For single divisions, one of a kind.

ORDERS FOR \$5.00 AND OVER SENT PREPAID.

CASH WITH ORDER, PLEASE



# Planting Time Collections

Every season, when I begin to plant, about June 1st I usually have more Dahlias of some varieties than I care to plant — and this year I am offering these surplus kinds in assortments of...

12 for . . . \$1.25 Postpaid

All different and labeled true to name!

Many of the Dahlias in these collections are 25 to 35 cent kinds in my catalog, and more elsewhere.

A customer who had seen my Dahlias growing in the field last fall writes, "Your flowers were a sight of indescribable beauty!"

"I was so thrilled with each and every one that I could hardly leave."

"The cleanliness of ground and bushes told plainly of all the hours of labor you have spent among them; and the enormous blooms just seem to shout a 'Thank You'."

"It was such a beautiful day, and the cars just kept stopping to look! We did not have time to visit the other gardens this time; and anyway, I am satisfied in ordering my bulbs from you."

"Well, I picked some varieties and would like to know prices. - - - Yours sincerely - - - etc."

# New Introduction for 1941 Queen of the Cascades - SEMI-C.

A huge pure white semi-cactus dahlia. The blooms are immense — about 10 inches or more across by 7 or 8 inches deep. Strong rigid stems holds the big massive blooms high above the foliage. Of the tall, strong plants, it is truly one of the largest and finest pure white dahlias that I have seen up to date. This wonderful dahlia should be a blue ribbon winner at the leading shows, as it has every desirable quality necessary to place it in a class with the very best. I have grown this Dahlia for the past three years from roots (not propagated for plants) so its type and color is thoroughly fixed. I have a sufficient supply of good strong roots to offer at a reasonable price that every dahlia fan can afford.

NOTE— A letter from one of my customers who had seen this Dahlia growing in my field this last fall writes:—

"When your seedling, "Queen of the Cascades", started on the market, let me know and I must have one of those beautiful things. You may well be proud of that huge bloom and wonderful stem - - - Of all the white sorts I have seen, that is my ideal!"

# GENERAL LIST OF Popular Dahlias

# N. A. MILLER

6720 N. ALBINA AVENUE

PORTLAND, OREGON

# CHOOSE YOUR OWN COLLECTIONS! AND ENJOY THESE DISCOUNTS

Any 25c kind — 6 for \$1.35 — 12 for \$2.50 Any 35c kind — 6 for \$1.95 — 12 for \$3.50 Any 50c kind — 6 for \$2.75 — 12 for \$5.00 Additional 5% discount on orders of \$10.00 or more.

### ABBREVIATIONS TO TYPES

C — Cactus
F. D. — Formal Decorative

S. C. — Semi-Cactus
I. D. — Informal Decorative

Price Each ACHIEVEMENT. S. C.— Gold with bronze shading. Immense size. Winner American Home Achivement Medal 1930. ADIRONDACK SUNSET, I. D.— A brilliant scarlet with golden tips, center is tipped golden orange, reverse of petals flushed with gold. Immense big blooms on on stout stems. Honor Roll Dahlia ..... with Rose and Gold. immense blooms. hibition Dahlia. popular. AZURA, I.D—Rosy lilac, with a bluish violet sheen. Immense big blooms often 12 inches across, on stout stems, good exhibition Dahlia. .50
BALLEGO'S SURPRISE, S.C.—A pure white from Holland of unusual beauty. It will surprise you with its purity, size and artistic formation. Blooms freely and erect on long, clean stems. Fine cut flower. Has received highest awards at foreign shows. BALLET GIRL, C.—Very large orange and white.... .25 BICOLOR, F.D.—Bright orange-scarlet, heavily tipped with white. Good size blooms on long hard stems. BLUE TRAIN, F.D.—Beautiful deep rosy lavender, with BLUE RIVER, F. D.—Color a blue French violet, blooms very 

Price Each BOSPHORUS, I.D.—Deep golden bronze with large perfect blooms on fine stems. BOYCHICK, I. D.—Huge garnet red, shading lighter red to edge of petals. Immense blooms often 10 inches across on fine stout stems, prolific bloomer. \_\_\_\_\_\_.25 BUCKEYE BRIDE, F. D.-A beautiful shade of Ger-BUCKEYE KING, I. D.—Very large clear amber yellow. anium pink. Strong vigorous growing plants, prolific bloomer stout stems. On the Roll of Honor. color a clear glistening yellow, great big deep blooms often 14 inches on good stout stems. On account of its immense size it has been called the Yellow Murphy's NOTE—A large supply of roots of this fine Dahlia permits this low price. CALIFORNIA ROSE, I.D.—An exquisite coloring of clear bright salmon rose, flowers large, but of extremely graceful form. Prolific bloomer, good stems. On the Honor Roll, 1935. CENTURY OF PROGRESS, F.D.—Lilac purple, large blooms on good stems.

CHAMPOEG, D.—The Dahlia beautiful, large yellow shading to salmon pink. On the Dahlia Roll of Honor. CHATAUQUA SALUTE, F.D.—A fine pure white. ..... CHEMARS MASTERPIECE, C .- Orchid pink, very city of cleveland, I. D.—A showy bright scarlet, splashed with orange, immense blooms, 8 to 11 inches on strong stems. A Certificate of Merit Dahlia and blooms on good stiff stems, sturdy growing plants of medium height. CLARA CARDER, I.D.—Beautiful cyclamen pink, very large blooms, plants of medium height. A prize winning Dahlia from New Zealand. high above the foliage on extra long stout stems. Color a beautiful blending of autumn shades, deep bronze with peach pink undertone and salmon-rose reverse. Keeps well when cut and a first class exhibition Dahlia. CROYDON GLORY, F.D.—Huge blooms of pure lemon yellow, 

DERRILL W. HART, D.—Reddish copper, large perfect blooms, excellent long stems. A Roll of Honor Dahlia
Dahlia
DWIGHT W. MORROW, D.—Rich deep red; very large blooms, one of the best reds
clear mallow pink stout stems. A Great Exhibition Dahlia On the Roll of Honor.
EAGLE ROCK GEM, C.—Maize yellow shading to pink Large perfect flowers on excellent stems
EDITH WHITAKER, I. D.—Rich dark velvety crimson with maroon shadings. Very large blooms on strong stems, one of the best of this color.
<b>ELEANOR ROOSEVELT.</b> F. D.—Pure white of exquis-
ite beauty, big perfect blooms on fine long stems. Roll of Honor Dahlia
tips of petals vellow. Large massive blooms with petals
that swirl in such a manner as to make it a very artistic and beautiful Dahlia, very free flowering. On the Roll of Honor
er
<b>ELITE GLORY.</b> D.—Bright red. stout stems, one of the
largest dahlias
stout stems
FRAU IDA MANSFIELD, C-Attractive cactus-type flowers of
pale lemon yellow, profuse bloomers, excellent stems 35 FREDA GEORGE, I.D.—Soft cream pink, overlaid heilo and
shading to rich cream at base. Very large blooms on long stems. A great prize winner from Australia
stems. A great prize winner from Australia
exhibition. On the Roll of Honor
of Honor Dahlia
GALLI CURCI, D.—Brilliant salmon orange, with golden sheen, very large blooms. A prize winner.
GIRL OF HILLCREST, F.D.— Bright Mikado orange. A great favorite. Roll of Honor.
GOLDEN ECLIPSE, F. D.—Clear golden yellow with Salmon blush. Big deep blooms 8 to 10 inches on good stems
A Roll of Honor Dahlia25  GOLDEN GIRL, C.—Immense big pure golden yellow. Large
est cactus variety that I have seen
on long, stout stems. One of the best of its color
center. Large perfect blooms, on strong slender stems. Winner of many prizes and on the Roll of
Honor
berry red. Very large blooms with long slightly incurved petals, good stout stems, fine for exhibitions
GOODNIGHT, I. D.—Very large dark maroon. A great prize winner
GOODWILL, S. C Beautiful pink with blending of
creamy yellow at center. Large long petaled flowers on good stems. Truly a lovely Dahlia

Price Each GRACE CURLING, I. D .- Pure, lilac with a pink tint and shading to white base, very large blooms with golden yellow blooms on long stiff stems, tall strong plants, fine exhibition Dahlia. On the Roll of Honor. HUNT'S VELVET WONDER, I. D.—Immense big deep blooms often 12 inches, on extra strong stems. Color a rich bright violet burgundy under some lights looks royal purple. A great prize winner. Received special award of merit at New York Show 1934. On the Roll of Honor IDA PERKINS, D.—An extra fine white. Ideal stems. INDIANA MOON, I. D .- Very large blooms, beautiful J. K. ALEXANDER JR., I.D.— Immense big deep bloom of Crimson-scarlet, lightly splashed with orange good stout stems. Award of Honor Georgia Experi-JANET SOUTHWICK, I. D.—A deep shade of tyrian rose or burgundy red. large blooms on good stems. 

JERSEY DAINTY, C.—A lovely white with faint tint of pink. The fine incurved deep blooms are held perfectly on long stiff stems. ..... JERSEY IDEAL, D.—Deep lavender pink, very large. 

very large and fine. .....

Price Each JOSEPHINE G., S. C.—Bright shade of true rose pink tipped straw yellow. 1929 Roll of Honor Dahlia. Very fine. JUDGE MAREAN, D.-Glowing salmon, red, orange. and yellow. JUGENDPRACHT, C .- Rose with golden yellow center. Good size perfect cactus flowers on long clean stems. A fine cut flower Dahlia. JUNE JUSTICE, I. D.—Rich, deep shade of tyrian rose. KATHLEEN NORRIS, D.-Very large rose pink, a A gold medal Dahlia, 1927. .25 LA FIESTA, I. D.—Huge blooms of deep sulphur yellow, penciled coral red, petals curl and twist. Good stout stems, a great prize winner. LORD OF AUTUMN, I.D.—One of the largest and most beautiful Dahlias. Immense big, deep golden yellow blooms often 12 inches wide by 8 inches deep. Extra stout stems. .50 great prize winner MARIE DRESSLER, F.D.—An attractive and beautiful shade of pomegranite red. Jersey Beauty type, perfect blooms on long stiff stems. Fine cut flower and exhibition Dahlia... .75 MARION BROOMAL, H. C .- Dark Lavender pink, white center, large. .... Very MARGRACE, I.D.—Brilliant Scarlet tipped with gold. large blooms on strong stems. A Mid-West prize win-MARY ELLEN, F. D .- A greatly improved Mrs. I de ver Warner, immense big blooms of lavender pink. Roll of Honor Dahlia. A .35 MARYIAND GLORY, D.—A fine shade of rich American Beauty red, very large deep blooms on excellent MARYLAND ORANGE, Semi-C.-A brilliant orange red. A gold medal winner, also on the Roll of incurved blooms 10 inches or more across on stout stems. A real prize winner. .. MISS OHIO, C .- Beautiful rosy lavender incurved cactus, MILTON J. CROSS, I.D.—A rich golden buff. Immense size blooms held on long strong stems. Has won many prizes. MRS. I de ver WARNER, D-Large mauve pink. Good stems. MRS. GEO. LE BOUTELLIER, I. D.—Rich velvety carMONMOUTH CHAMPION, D.—Brilliant orange flame. Immense big blooms. Great prize winner. A Roll of Honor Dahlia MONMOUTH SUNBURST, F. D.-Bright lemon yellow center, outer petals salmon orange producing a real sunburst effect. Large blooms on good stems. Truly a beautiful colored Dahlia. On the Roll of Honor. .25 MONMOUTH QUEEN, F.D.—A most pleasing color of picric yellow in the center, shading out to light primrose or creamy yellow. Immense blooms held on long stiff stems.....25 ically formed blooms on strong slender stems. An English Dahlia that is sure to become a popular petals twist and droop around the stems which gives the blooms a huge massive appearance. Tall vigorous growplants. ORIENTALE, D.-Large bright glowing coral orange, ORIENTAL BEAUTY, S. C.—Truly a beautiful Dahlia oriental Girl, I. D.—A grand large Dahlia of Chinese red and yellow, held on long stout stems. .35
ORIENTAL GLORY, I. D.— Bright vivid shade of orange overlaid with scarlet. Large perfect blooms Achievement Medal winner, 1933. on strong stems. olympic sunset, S. C.—Apricot orange, and coral with a blending of pale lemon yellow having a distinct zone of yellow at base of petals, reverse of petals rose, blooms often 10 inches across. A Roll of Honor Dahlia. PALO ALTO, S. C.—Clear bright salmon shading to gold center, very large deep perfect blooms on good stems. A great prize winner at the leading shows of 1934. PAULINE JAMES, C .- Reddish terra cotta color. Very free flowering cactus Dahlia. Fine for cutting. PAUL PFITZER, S.C.—A German novelty of great beauty and refinement. Color primrose shading into delicate rose pink. Good size blooms on excellent stems. Fine for exhibition or cut flowers. PINK DAILY MAIL, F.D.—Bright lavender pink, shading to darker center, which adds greatly to its Immense blooms on good stems. Fine for beauty. exhibition. 

Price Each PRES. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, F. D.—Very large attractive blooms of Chinese red with fawn edge and **HOBERT EMMETT.** I.D.—A wonderfully rich velvety cardinal red, shaded crimson. Truly such a rich, beautiful color that it immediately attracts attention. Large perfect blooms on long stiff stems. Winner of many prizes and on the Roll of Honor. ROCKLEY MOON, I. D.—Bright lemon yellow, shading blooms on very stout stems. A winner of many prizes. On the Roll of Honor, ..... SATAN, S. C.—One of the largest and most sensational prize winning Dahlias. Immense big deep blooms with long horn-like incurved petals color flaming red, with a touch of gold at center, long rigid stems. A Roll of Honor SHILLER, C .- A fine blending of amber and pink, rather small blooms, but excellent for floral decoration. Stock limited. SONNY BOY, I. D.— A monster bloom of old rose, slightly striped and tinged old gold. Good stout stems, sturdy tips, excellent stems. Achievement Medal winner and Roll of Honor Dahlia. SULTAN OF HILLCREST, I. D.—Clear deep lemon yellow, reverse rosy pink, a unique and unusual color effect that TANG, D.—Orange flame with gold shadings. A very showy Dahlia. THE FIREMAN, I. D.—A showy, flashy cardinal red, with golden flushes. Fine large blooms on long stems. rose red and rose reverse. Very large full blooms, on stout stems.

THOS. A. EDISON, D.—Rich royal purple, large perfect TOM WORKMAN, F.D.—Big flashy colored blooms of russet-

TOWERS EMPIRE, I. D.—Immense blooms of clear gold, with a deep amber shading at the center. The best of stems. A fine exhibition Dahlia, on the Roll

Honor. TREASURE ISLAND, D.—Bright apricot and gold with rose shading, very large deep blooms on excellent stems, low growing bush. ..

Price Each
TRIOMPHE de PARIS, C.—A distinct and most attractive foreign variety. Rich scarlet on a yellow base, shading to golden yellow tips, perfect form and stem. Keeps extra well as a cut flower
UNCLE TOM, D.—Dark velvety red, good size blooms on fine
stems. Early, prolific and constant bloomer
WALDHEIM SUNSHINE, D.—Very large yellow, suffused gold, extra fine
extra fine
yellow, suffused orange carmine
WATCHUNG WONDER, I.D.—Large rich royal red, touch of
gold at center. Good stems
blooms on extra long stiff stems. A great prize winner and
Boll of Honor Dahlia
Roll of Honor Dahlia50 WHITE FANTASY, I.D.—Large white, with wavy petals, on good stems25
good stems
WHITE WONDER, I. D.—Large fluffy white, with long graceful wavy petals, fine for exhibition. On the Honor Roll.
.25
WILL ROGERS, D.—Large silvery lavender
WILLAMETTE, I. Dec—Beautiful blend of golden coral. Rose
and Salmon15 YANKEE GOLD, I. D.—Large perfect blooms of pure gold.
.25
YELLOW MARVEL, I.D.—Pure lemon yellow, large perfect blooms on strong stems. A good cut flower Dahlia from
Holland

# Miniature Dahlias

A new type of small Dahlias, same in form as the large Decorative Cactus and Peony Dahlias, but blooms are small, only 2 to 4 inches across, have wire-like stems, are excellent cut flowers. Will keep for days, in water and work in nicely with other garden flowers.

AMERICAN BEAUTY, Min. F.D.—American Beauty wine red. Good stems
BABY ROYAL, Min. S. C.—A beautiful little cactus dahlia of salmon pink, shaded apricot and gold, wiry stems, fine for cutting. A gold Medal winner
BISHOP OF LANDAFF, Duplex—Intense deep red, shading to darker red, and rich yellow pollen center, stiff stems, dark bronzy foliage. Very effective bedding Dahlia. Ideal
cut flower
BLYETCHEN SCHEAL (Miniature Ball Dahlia from Germany)  —Pure white, Plants of bushy robust growth and a constant prolific bloomer. Very good
white center, very pretty
CORRONE—Pure waxy white, resembling a gardenia
DAWN, Min. Peony—Warm bronzy buff, with a rich scarlet halo at base of petals which is very effective. Long, clean stems.
DREAMTHORPE, Min. D.—Australian prize winner. A fine autumn color, tango shaded primrose, coppery gold center,
long wiry stems35 ELIZABETH PAPE, MIN. C.—Pale pink, creamy white center
very dainty
Miniature Jersey Beauty

FREDA, Min. D.—Bright rich maroon, or very dark red. Perfect little blooms on long wiry stems. A favorite with many35  OLDER CALIFORNIA, Cac.—Yellow, shaded with amber and salmon, 1934 Roll of Honor
petals. A little large for a miniature, otherwise good. Throughout the season the robust plants are covered with blooms. Excellent stems and fine for cutting
long stiff stems, excellent cut flower
red, fine for exhibition
LADY MARY HOPE, Min. D.—(England) Orange am
ber, tipped with white, very attractive
flowers, carried on top of strong clean stems. Lasting cut
flower50 LITTLE DARLING, Min. S.C.—Attractive little blooms with
pointed petals, color pink with yellow center. Excellent stems
center and tips. Extra free bloomer, fine for cut-
ting
stems Very showy and fine for cutting50
LITTLE JENNY, Min. S.C.—Dainty little blooms, with pointed petals. Color flesh pink, canary yellow center, fine stems.
LITTLE JEWELL, Min. D.—Pure peach blossom pink
One of the most popular to date. 25 LITTLE SNOW QUEEN, Min. S.C.—Small snow white cactus,
long clean stems. Ideal for cutting
Neat compact little flowers with pointed petals. Good substance, long erect stems. A real gem for cutting 35
NORA BELLE, Min. P.—Orange red. vellow base, tinted blue
flame, very free blooming
purpose
Long wiry stems. Fine for cutting
PINK PEARL, Min. D.—Lovely rose pink petals waved and twisted like an aster. Long wiry stems, fine for cutting
RED ERIC, Min. D. (England)—Bright Scarlet with golden
sheen. Fine stems—a very showy little Dahlia
On the Honor Roll35 RHODA, Min. D.—Glowing orange rose, curled petals fine
cut flower
shrimp pink. Prolific bloomer
SILVIA, Min. F.D.—Soft shade of garnet red. Prolific bloomer. Ideal for cutting
<b>SNOWDROP</b> , Min. C.—Perfect little cactus blooms of pure white, long wiry stems, fine for cutting
TEDDY BEAR, F. D.—(Holland) Deep scarlet red. This little Dahlia is quite different in formation,
being more like a small double Camellias, is very
free flowering, has fine stems, a lasting cut flower An outstanding miniature at the great Chicago show
in 1936

WASP, Min. D.—(England) Deep golden yellow. This variety often comes duplex or with open center. However, it is very free flowering, has good stems fine for cutting. \_\_\_\_\_.15

# POM PON OR MINIATURE BALL DAHLIAS

Very small, compact, quilled petaled blooms 1 to 2 inches in diameter. Excellent cut flowers. creamy yellow. .... ELIZABETH ANN- Deep peach pink, with gold underglow HILDE PUPPEE—Bright crimson with dark center, fine stems. .25 MINNIE MELLS-Orchid rose flushed deeper, orchid, fine MRS. V. BRITTAIN-A lovely little pink, from New Zealand. MORNING MIST- White with fine lavender shadings. Long Ling stems. ..... SALAMANDER— Deep red with golden underglow. Very free YELLOW GEM- Rich golden yellow, perfect little blooms, 

# DAHLIA CULTURE

By N. A. MILLER

There are so many different opinions about how and when to plant Dahlias that I almost hesitate to offer cultural directions that will apply everywhere. However, you will have to use your own judgment to some extent because you know your climatic conditions, seasons, soil, etc.

In our Pacific Northwest, the Dahlia is treated as a late summer or autumn flower—and is at their best after the fall rains start. So, you see, Dahlias naturally love a lot of moisture at the blooming period. Dahlias are easily grown, requiring no special skill to bring them to perfection—any good garden soil will produce fine Dahlia blooms if well prepared by deep spading, good cultivation and plenty of moisture at blooming time.

Preparing your soil— Spade your soil 10 to 12 inches deep about a month before planting, and rake once a week to conserve the moisture. Then, just before planting your Dahlias, work your soil over again until it is very loose and deep, and without lumps.

If your soil is clay or very heavy and hard to keep in good tillable condition, add sand, old sawdust, or your stove ashes and peat moss. If you use peat moss, add some lime to counteract the acidity.

If your soil is poor, broadcast and work into the top soil some good commercial fertilizer not too high in nitrogen content. A fertilizer compound 4-3-7 (can be bought at almost any seed store) composed of 4 per cent nitrogen, 8 per cent acid phosphate, 7 per cent potash, or use bone meal at the rate of a double handfull to each plant.

Planting— Dahlias may be planted any time after the soil has become thoroughly warmed. But for best results, plant from May 10th to June 15th. I believe planting between these dates will apply to all parts of the U.S.A. except perhaps some of the southern states where they plant earlier so that the plants will become well rooted and established before the very hot weather sets in.

Dahlias grow very quickly in hot weather if the soil has been well prepared, and the Dahlias get a good supply of moisture and provided with either good cultivation or irrigation. If your Dahlias come into bloom during very hot weather or during a drought, mulch around and between the plants with some loose material like straw, peat moss, old sawdust or your lawn clippings to conserve moisture and protect the feeding roots which come close to the surface as the plants develop. This fact is not generally understood and will account for many failures.

Plant, if possible, in an open, sunny situation where your plants will have good air circulation and not be too close to trees or big shrubs. Large Dahlias should be planted about 3 feet apart each way—smaller sorts, like miniature and pompons, can be planted 2 feet between the plants. A good medium size root, as a rule, will produce the best flowering plant.

Drive a strong stake to support the plants before planting. Never stand the root on end, but lay flat or on slight angle with eye or sprout up in holes 4 inches deep for heavy soil and 6 inches deep in very loose or sandy soil. Cover only about 2 inches and when the roots begin to grow, put in the balance of the soil.

Do not water if your soil is quite moist. If too dry it will be better to water your ground thoroughly a day or two before planting and cultivate the surface. Watering at the time you plant, especially heavy soil, packs

around the tuber and greatly retards root development in the early stage of the plant's growth.

Cultivation— To have the greatest success with your Dahlias, the trick is to keep your plants growing. Good cultivation is most essential for best results. Start cultivating soon after planting (be careful not to disturb the root). Hoe deeply or cultivate with a garden hook about once a week to form a good deep soil mulch which will conserve the moisture and check the weeds. As the plants grow and when about 18 to 20 inches high, deep cultivation should cease and only rake lightly the surface of the soil after each rain or watering. Also, at this stage of the Dahlia plants growth, the feed roots come toward the surface of the soil. This is a good time to apply your fertilizer—broadcast and work it into the top soil. Also give the ground a heavy watering, after working in the fertilizer, to disolve and keep it in solution so it will be available for the feeding roots. If the weather is very hot and dry, apply a good loose mulch previously directed.

Watering— Good cultivation is more important than water in the early stage of a Dahlia plant's growth. But in very hot and dry weather, water is quite necessary to keep up a strong, continuous growth. However, it is not advisable to begin watering until the plants really need it. Then water every ten days or two weeks, cultivating the top soil after each watering as soon as the soil is workable. To make your plants healthier and to hold the insects in check, give your plants a good shower bath every evening during dry weather. When the plants start to show flower buds, water should be applied freely and in large quantities once a week. This will force a greater quantity of flowers with long stems and the largest size blooms. When you water, soak the ground thoroughly. Best to set your sprinkler in the evening among your Dahlias and let the water run until the soil is saturated but not puddled and turn the sprinkler on again the next morning. This last sprinkling will drive the moisture down to a lower level—consequently, you hold moisture longer then when you just wet the surface.

Fertilizer— Dahlias don't require very rich soil to produce fine flowers. But to get good exhibition blooms, a liberal amount of a well balanced fertilizer should be applied broadcast around your plants (be careful not to apply too close to base of plants) and thoroughly worked into the soil about a month or six weeks after planting.

The fertilizer formula previously mentioned would be good, supplemented by a good sprinkling of tankage with a little lime and crude sulphur added and applied about every two or three weeks while the Dahlias are in bloom.

Vigoro is another good fertilizer for Dahlias.

Disbudding— When your plants have made their second or third set of leaves, pinch out the tops—this causes your plants to branch and not grow so tall. If you do this, stakes will not be so necessary unless you have heavy fall rains and strong winds that will break them down. A strong stake 5 or 6 feet long driven firmly into the ground with the plant loosely tied to it, will prevent breakage.

For choice cut flowers or exhibition blooms, pinch off the two side buds and disbud the branches to the last two sets of leaves near the stalk letting only one bloom develop on a stem. For garden decoration it is not necessary to disbud the branches as a large number of good sized flowers are of more value for a fine garden display than only a few highly developed blooms. Keep old withered flowers picked off and your plants will bloom better.

Cut Flowers— The blooms should be well developed and cut late in the evening. Put in deep, cold water in a cool place overnight. The blooms that have wilted by

### HAVE YOU A HOBBY?

There is no finer, healthier or more interesting hobby than growing flowers and especially the Dahlia in its many forms and gorgeous colors.

next morning will not keep. Burning the stem ends in a flame, or dipping ends in boiling water for a minute or two will help. You can sometimes revive wilted blooms by laying them in a bath tub of cold water or sprinkling the flowers with water.

Digging and care of the roots in winter— After the first killing frost, cut off the stalks at once, close to the ground, and let stand a few days for the roots to ripen. Dig carefully so as not to break the tubers near where they join the stalk. Remove most of the soil. Then cut off the rest of the stalk close to crown of the clump and pack at once in shallow crates or boxes. (vegetable crate 18x24 inches — 8 to 12 inches deep is ideal). Cover with shavings or sawdust and store in a cool, frost-proof cellar or basement. If your basement is heated by a furnace, it will be best to line the inside of crates with several layers of newspaper—also cover the roots thickly with newspaper to exclude the warm air which causes the roots to shrivel. Watch your roots during the winter. If they mildew near the crown, take off the top paper for a day or two to let the excess moisture escape. If too dry, moisten the sawdust or shavings or wet the top paper and replace.

Dividing— In the spring when the tubers commence to sprout, the clumps should be divided with a sharp knife to single tubers with one strong eye or sprout to each tuber. You will find the eye or sprout at the base or crown of the stalk where the roots or tubers join the plant — never on the tubers.

If, after dividing, you are not ready to plant, cover them again with moist soil, peat moss, or sand, to keep them in good condition until wanted.

In writing this article on Dahlia Culture I have endeavored to give you the best of my knowledge gained from almost 25 year's experience in growing fine Dahlias. I hope these cultural directions will be of value to you and that you may have great success in growing these wonderful flowers.

Sincerely yours,

N. A. MILLER

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